

HENRY OLDKNOW, Surgeon to the General Hospital, &c. &c.

J. M. B. PIGOT, M.D., F.R.S. Edinburgh, formerly senior Physician to the General Inf. &c. of the City of Chester.

HENRY CLINTON ATTENBURROW, Surg.
WILLIAM WRIGHT."

ADDRESS FROM CORK.

"To the Ex-Medical Officers of the Aldersgate-Street Dispensary, London.

"GENTLEMEN,—We, the physicians and surgeons of the *Cork General Dispensary*, viewing with pleasure your manly and determined conduct, beg to offer our tribute of applause. We rejoice in the act as the commencement of a great change. The medical profession has too long submitted patiently to ill-treatment from men who, placed in a little brief authority, have used that authority as a means of petty tyranny. And we feel that the entire body of the profession will not only approve of such conduct, but act upon it, should circumstances render necessary such measures. We have the honour to be, Gentlemen, with sincere esteem, your obedient servants,

T. MACKAY, M.D. (Surgeons)
M. McNAMARA, M.D. W. F. PORTER, M.D.
J. COPINGER, M.D. R. T. FOWLER, M.D.
T. LUCEY, M.D. L. H. ORPEN, M.D.

Cork, Oct. 12th, 1833."

LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Monday, October 14th, 1833.

Mr. KINGDON, President.

CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATE ON THE RICE AND CHOLERA QUESTION.

ON the arrival of the time for renewing the debate on this important subject,

Dr. SEOANE rose, and said that he had perused with the highest interest and attention the statements of Dr. Tytler, and thought that the greatest discovery of modern times would be made, if Dr. Tytler could prove his position, because it would then be so easy to prevent the spread of cholera, all preventive and sanatory measures being reducible to one phrase, "Eat no rice." But we are yet (continued Dr. S.) far from such a discovery I fear, for although Dr. Tytler has clearly shown that rice has frequently been the predisposing, and sometimes the exciting cause of the disease in India, he

has failed to prove that it is the principal, essential, or specific cause. One particular reason, however, for my being interested in this debate is this. Two years ago my attention was carefully directed to the subject of the cholera, and I then read every work and paper on the subject which I could obtain. Amongst other views, I met with those of Dr. Tytler, and in a report on the causes of the cholera which I drew up for the Spanish government, I noticed his statements. My opinion was not very favourable to his theory then, and it is not more so now that I have read his remarks to this Society. I embodied my objections in the following paragraph, which I ask your leave to read, and I hope that Dr. Tytler will be kind enough to reply to them.

Dr. TYTLER.—Had not the questions better be put to me singly, that I may answer them one by one? It will be much easier than for me to answer a host at once. In fact, I come here to-night to be interrogated.

Dr. SEOANE.—It will not take long to read. (The extract mentioned the nature of Dr. Tytler's doctrine, admitted that "Nobody could doubt that damaged rice, like any other damaged food, could be a cause of disease, or that when bad food of any sort forms the principal nourishment of a large body of people, an epidemic disease can be produced amongst those people," but added, that the disease would be confined to the place where the bad food existed, and contended, "that it would be ridiculous to suppose the rice of 1817, whatever it had done in Bengal, had been travelling for the last 15 years, and producing the Asiatic cholera in Arabia, Persia, Africa, Russia, Turkey, Poland, Germany, England, and France.") I still hold this opinion notwithstanding all Dr. T. says. The point to be decided is, in my opinion, whether damaged rice is only a predisposing and exciting cause, or a principal and essential cause. There is an immense difference between a predisposing and exciting cause, and a principal one. Further, Dr. Tytler has enumerated amongst the bad doings of rice, the destruction of the Spanish expeditionary army at Cadiz in 1819, to which I reply, that the army was not destroyed at all. I presume Dr. Tytler knows by this time, from my speech, that I am a foreigner. I am a Spaniard, and formerly was a member and secretary of the Committee of Public Health during the Cortes. In my official capacity it fell to my lot to get all the official documents belonging to the Cadiz epidemic of 1819. I examined many medical men who had been employed during it, and drew up a report,